

In the Claims: (strikethrough parts deleted and underlined parts added)

Please delete Claims 16, 21, 22, 23 without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A boatlift buoyancy system, comprising:

a first tube and a second tube removably attachable to a plurality of horizontal support beams of a boatlift, wherein said tubes are capable of receiving a volume of air and/or water;

wherein said plurality of horizontal support beams are immovably affixed to a plurality of vertical post members, wherein said vertical post members have an upper end and a lower end, and wherein said lower end of each of said vertical post members is in engagement with a bottom of a lake or a river; and

a first hose and a second hose fluidly connected to said first tube and said second tube respectively for providing pressurized air for creating buoyancy.

2. (Previously Amended) The boatlift buoyancy system of Claim 1, wherein said first tube and said second tube are removably attachable to a boatlift by a plurality of attachment brackets.

3. (Original) The boatlift buoyancy system of Claim 2, wherein said attachment brackets are comprised of a U-member with threaded distal ends, a plate with a plurality of apertures for receiving said U-member, and a plurality of fastener nuts threadably attachable to said threaded distal ends.

4. (Previously Canceled)

5. (Original) The boatlift buoyancy system of Claim 1, wherein said tubes are orientated substantially horizontal when attached to a boatlift.

6. (Original) The boatlift buoyancy system of Claim 1, wherein said first hose and said second hose have a first nozzle and a second nozzle for allowing input of

pressurized air, wherein said first nozzle and said second nozzle have a valve structure.

7. (Original) The boatlift buoyancy system of Claim 1, including a valve unit fluidly connected to said first hose and said second hose, wherein said valve unit includes a fill nozzle and a release nozzle.

8. (Original) The boatlift buoyancy system of Claim 1, including a connecting hose having a connecting nozzle, wherein said connecting hose is fluidly connected to said first hose and said second hose and wherein said connecting nozzle has a valve structure.

9. (Original) The boatlift buoyancy system of Claim 1, wherein said first tube and said second tube have a first aperture and a second aperture respectively within lower portions thereof for allowing draining of water when pressurized air is input into said tubes and for allowing water to enter said tubes when pressurized air is allowed to escape from said tubes.

10. (Original) The boatlift buoyancy system of Claim 9, including a first screen and a second screen positioned about said first aperture and said second aperture for keeping debris from entering within said tubes.

11. (Currently Amended) A boatlift buoyancy system, comprising:
a boatlift having a first tube and a second tube attached in a horizontal manner to a plurality of horizontal support beams immovably positioned between a plurality of vertical post members, wherein said tubes are capable of receiving a volume of air and/or water, wherein said vertical post members have an upper end and a lower end, and wherein said lower end of each of said vertical post members is in engagement with a bottom of a lake or a river;

wherein said first tube and said second tube have a first aperture and a second aperture respectively within lower portions thereof for allowing draining of

water when pressurized air is input into said tubes and for allowing water to enter said tubes when pressurized air is allowed to escape from said tubes;

wherein as said tubes receive said volume of air, said plurality of horizontal support beams and said vertical post members simultaneously move in an upward manner; and

a first hose and a second hose fluidly connected to said first tube and said second tube respectively for providing pressurized air for creating buoyancy.

12. (Original) The boatlift buoyancy system of Claim 11, wherein said first hose and said second hose have a first nozzle and a second nozzle for allowing input of pressurized air, wherein said first nozzle and said second nozzle have a valve structure.

13. (Original) The boatlift buoyancy system of Claim 11, including a valve unit fluidly connected to said first hose and said second hose, wherein said valve unit includes a fill nozzle and a release nozzle.

14. (Original) The boatlift buoyancy system of Claim 11, including a connecting hose having a connecting nozzle, wherein said connecting hose is fluidly connected to said first hose and said second hose and wherein said connecting nozzle has a valve structure.

15. (Original) The boatlift buoyancy system of Claim 11, including a first screen and a second screen positioned about said first aperture and said second aperture for keeping debris from entering within said tubes.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Canceled)

18. (Previously Canceled)

19. (Previously Canceled)

20. (Previously Canceled)

21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)

C. APPLICANT'S COMMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5-15 are pending in this Application, with Claims 16, 21-23 canceled, with Claims 1, 11 being amended. No new matter is added by way of these amendments, and the amendments are supported throughout the Specification and the drawings. Reconsideration of Claims 1-3, 5-15 is respectfully requested.

More particularly, independent Claims 1, 11 have been amended to include the following features:

wherein said vertical post members have an upper end and a lower end, and wherein said lower end of each of said vertical post members is in engagement with a bottom of a lake or a river

None of the prior art references cited (including Pritchett, Rutter and Cruchelow) teach this structure. More particularly, none of the prior art references teach the following combination of features as specifically claimed in independent Claim 1:

1. (Currently Amended) A boatlift buoyancy system, comprising:
a first tube and a second tube removably attachable to a plurality of horizontal support beams of a boatlift, wherein said tubes are capable of receiving a volume of air and/or water;
wherein said plurality of horizontal support beams are immovably affixed to a plurality of vertical post members, wherein said vertical post members have an upper end and a lower end, and wherein said lower end of each of said vertical post members is in engagement with a bottom of a lake or a river; and
a first hose and a second hose fluidly connected to said first tube and said second tube respectively for providing pressurized air for creating buoyancy.

In addition, none of the prior art references teach the combination of features as specifically claimed in independent Claim 11:

11. (Currently Amended) A boatlift buoyancy system, comprising:
a boatlift having a first tube and a second tube attached in a horizontal manner to a plurality of horizontal support beams immovably positioned between a plurality of vertical post members, wherein said tubes are capable of receiving a volume of air and/or water, wherein said vertical post members have an upper end and a lower end, and wherein said lower end of each of

said vertical post members is in engagement with a bottom of a lake or a river;

wherein said first tube and said second tube have a first aperture and a second aperture respectively within lower portions thereof for allowing draining of water when pressurized air is input into said tubes and for allowing water to enter said tubes when pressurized air is allowed to escape from said tubes;

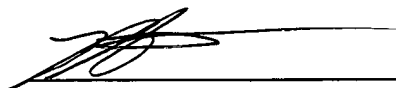
wherein as said tubes receive said volume of air, said plurality of horizontal support beams and said vertical post members simultaneously move in an upward manner; and

a first hose and a second hose fluidly connected to said first tube and said second tube respectively for providing pressurized air for creating buoyancy.

D. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited. Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. **Alternatively should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, they are invited to telephone the undersigned.**

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Neustel (Reg. No. 41,221)
NEUSTEL LAW OFFICES, Ltd.
2534 South University Drive, Suite No. 4
Fargo, North Dakota 58103

February 3, 2005

Date

Telephone: (701) 281-8822
Facsimile: (701) 237-0544
e-mail: Michael@neustel.com



Attorney's Docket No. ROSS-006

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with proper postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to:

**Mail Stop Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

On February 3, 2005.


MaKell Baumgartner

NEUSTEL LAW OFFICES, Ltd.
2534 South University Drive, Suite No. 4
Fargo, North Dakota 58103

Telephone: (701) 281-8822
Facsimile: (701) 237-0544
e-mail: michael@neustel.com